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Urbanization Committee (SA5)

*Implementing Measures to Aid the
Adjustment of Immigrants Relocating
to Cities*

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RESEARCH
REPORT



Forum: Urbanization Committee (SA5)

Issue: Implementing Measures to Aid the Adjustment of Immigrants Relocating to Cities

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Introduction

Migration is one of the important issues in today's world. Right now, there are 272 million migrants according to the Population Division on the behalf of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of the United Nations (UN). These 272 million people consist of expats, students and other individuals who migrated with their own will. In contrast, this number includes the ones that are forced to change their locations because of reasons that are out of their control such as conflicts and lack of job opportunities, resulting in forced displacement. The number of people who are displaced by force have increased about 13 million between 2010 and 2017 according to DESA which means that 13 million people left their surroundings without a plan, causing a great shift in countries' populations which many states lack the resources to handle well. In general, the immigration numbers have increased rapidly since 2000; there were reported to be 222 million immigrants in 2010, and this number increased by 50 million people within the next 10 years. This increase made the national and regional governments' job very difficult compared to the years before. The main cause of this was that the demand for refugees has increased, but the supply from the authorities stayed the same or witnessed a very slow increase, and in some cases it decreased. When the immigration isn't planned, it is usually illegal and it will make the situation harder for immigrants to settle in the cities.

Definition of Key Terms

Immigrant: A person who comes to live in a foreign country permanently.

Immigration: Moving to a different country to live permanently.

Local Authority: An administrative body in the local government.

Displacement: Moving someone or something from its position

Visa: The permission to enter a country.

Xenophobia: Fear of strangers or foreigner hate.

Immigration Routes: The routes that the immigrants use while moving to another country illegally and these routes usually include remote destinations.

Customs: While you enter a country you pass through customs, it is the official checkpoint of the country in its borders.

General Overview

Immigration is an action that occurred thousands of years ago. In ancient times, people tried to move to areas which consisted of water and better places for their animals to grow. Simply, their main aim was to relocate to places that have the resources that they can use to benefit themselves. After years the migration of the tribes happened and hundreds of thousands of people moved from central Asia to Europe. There were better opportunities and higher life standards in Europe, that's why they went to Europe. Another example of this issue is the immigration of the European Jews to different places, both before and after World War 2. Their aim was common with the others, they wanted better chances and a safer environment. Throughout history, immigration was made in order to increase life standards. Right now the situation is the same. Each year millions of people immigrate to countries that can provide better opportunities to them, with a dream of a better future or escaping from terrible conditions. There are some specific immigration routes in the world that provide most of the transactions between countries.



The map of migration routes in the world

The key point of these movements are the same. They want a safer environment or better chances. These routes are the Eastern Mediterranean, Central American, Southeast Asian and the Mediterranean Sea routes. The Eastern Mediterranean route passes from Syria to Turkey and it continues to Europe from Turkey. The Central American route connects Central America and the United States. Mexico is the last destination before the U.S. and it is like a bridge. In the Southeast Asian route people are immigrating to safer places. Finally, in the Mediterranean Sea route immigrants cross the Mediterranean Sea with boats. Usually these boats are very risky, that's why each year thousands of people lose their life in the sea. As seen in the map, the borders and transaction points are in rural areas and away from the cities. However, there are some exceptions to this; Usually all the financial power and job opportunities are in cities but when someone enters a country and locates in an area far away from those habitation centers it

is very hard for them to integrate themselves to the society. In order to achieve the full integration, measures have to be taken.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

Turkey

Turkey now hosts the largest refugee population in the world, mostly from Syria. The Government of Turkey estimates the total number of registered Syrians under Temporary Protection (SuTPs) at 2,225,147. Most of the immigrants are successfully integrated. The government has stated that they see the migration of Syrian refugees as a temporary situation, however there has not been any action taken to assist the return of Syrians to their country.

Syria

In Syria there is a civil war and it's ongoing for 10 years. Millions left the country for Turkey and the EU. These immigrants fled the country via Turkey then by boats to Greece. Some moved to Lebanon and then moved to Cyprus in order to reach better opportunities. Syrian refugees have sought asylum in more than 125 countries, but the vast majority live in neighboring countries within the region, such as Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt. More than 80 percent of Syrian refugees are still living below the poverty line, with limited access to basic services, education or job opportunities and few prospects of returning home.

Yemen

Yemen remains to be the victim of one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. Due to the conflict going on in Yemen between the rebel groups and the government, more than 3.6 million people have fled the country to move to Saudi Arabia or Oman. Some also manage to move to the 'Mediterranean' and finally cross the sea by boat to reside in Europe. While Yemeni refugees abroad have formed small communities and are relatively well accepted in the host countries, migrants and refugees in Yemen encounter famine, violence, exploitation and discrimination. Moreover, the conditions are worsened by the current conflict, resulting in foreigners having to compete with the local population for basic resources such as food, housing, health care and employment, to which Yemenis have hardly access themselves. In addition, migrants in Yemen mostly become victims of criminals who take advantage from their vulnerable position as migrants and refugees.

Lebanon

Lebanon is in an economic and humanitarian crisis but life can continue and they accommodate the largest amount of refugees in the world. Since 2011, Lebanon has taken in 1.5 million Syrian refugees. Officially, the country's policy has been to host them until the war in the neighboring country has ended, however the Lebanese government has been intentionally making life harder for its Syrian refugees, instilling a fear of detention and eventual deportation on top of the daily deprivations inflicted by the

absence of any material safety net. However, due to the lack of measures in assisting the relocation of Syrian refugees, the immigration situation in Lebanon remains to get worse.

European Union

European Union countries have a common policy towards immigration and they aim to divide the immigrants equally. European countries are one of the best appliers of human rights, and because of this and their geographical position, it is the desired destination of most immigrants.

Timeline of Events

1990	<i>The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families was signed in 1990 in New York. This treaty assured the health and the rights of the migrant workers and encouraged them to work in a different country.</i>
1997	<i>Under the Treaty of Amsterdam, member states agreed to transfer certain powers from national governments to the European Parliament across diverse areas, including legislating on immigration, establishing unity on immigrant rights within the EU.</i>
2003	<i>One of the biggest migration waves in history started from the Middle East to Europe as a result of the invasion of Iraq by the United States of America.</i>
2004	<i>The common basic policies about immigration were agreed in the European countries, and the European Union granted EU citizens a freedom of movement and residence within the EU. The term "immigrant" became a term used to refer to non-EU citizens, meaning that EU citizens are not to be defined as immigrants within the EU territory. The European Commission defined "immigration" as the action by which a person from a non-EU country establishes his or her usual residence in the territory of an EU country for a period that is or is expected to be at least twelve months.</i>
2011	<i>With the start of the Syrian Civil War, another huge migration wave from the Middle East took place, and millions of immigrants moved to Europe and</i>

	<i>Turkey.</i>
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2016	<i>An action plan within the EU called The 2016 action plan on the integration of third-country nationals was implemented. The plan provided a comprehensive framework to support Member States' efforts in developing and strengthening their integration policies. While it targets all third-country nationals in the EU, it also contained actions to address the specific challenges faced by refugees.</i>
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Treaties and Events

Treaty of Amsterdam (1997): With the Amsterdam Treaty certain powers shifted to the EU governing body from National Governments and it was a stepping stone for creating a common migration policy.

International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (1990): This treaty was signed in 1990 in New York. With this treaty, migrant workers in all countries were given basic rights.

UN Treaty of Immigration: With the Treaty of Immigration, all migrants became entitled to universal human rights and countries agreed to eliminate all forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and intolerance against migrants and their families.

Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

With international treaties establishing immigration rights, panels were organized about integrating immigrants into labour markets in order to create new job opportunities' which countries such as Canada sponsored to help create a new and better life. Some governments also built social housing and sold it to the refugees for a cheaper price. With these measures, some immigration problems were solved and with it the relocation of migrants became easier. However, many issues still remain within immigration systems of most countries. Right now, the European Union countries are the only states to have regulations on assisting the return of immigrants.

Possible Solutions

Various UN organs or financial institutions can finance the projects that will employ migrants and create a job for them. This way they can earn money and increase their financial situation. With this, it would be easier for them to settle in the more developed and expensive cities.

Some courses can also be organized in order to educate the migrants about jobs like being a plumber or an electrician. These are the jobs that are following a decreasing trend in most of the migrant receiving countries that's why it could support the demand.

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